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Venezuela releases first photos of sick Chavez



Official press office show Chavez with his daughters and holding Thursday's edition of a Cuban newspaper [AFP]

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was seen bed-ridden but smiling in photos released Friday that gave an anxious nation a first glimpse of its leader since a fourth round of cancer surgery in December.

The pictures show 58-year-

old Chavez lying on his back in a Havana hospital, with his two eldest daughters at his side and leafing through Thursday's edition of the official Cuban newspaper Granma.

Chavez supporters rejoiced at the confirmation that the president was alive.

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Hootenanny! Aruba welcomes the Nasser-Hunter Square Dance group on Adventure of the Seas



U of A Students and Jeff Matos of Club Kibrahacha

The Aruba Tourism Authority "Cruise Team" of Gloria Vega and Visitor Liaison Darline De Cuba were proud to announce they have joined with Club Kibrahacha 60+ and the University of Aruba in a unique and stimulating project.

The ATA was contacted by the Nasser-Hunter Square Dance Group, founded by Nasser Shukayr and Hunter Keller. Over 70 international members strong, they will be cruising on the Adventure of the Seas this coming week, with a call in Aruba on Thursday, February 21.

The group, consisting of square dance enthusiasts from the U.S., Sweden and Canada, all 60+, expressed the desire to connect with their peer group on Aruba to demonstrate the joys and health benefits of square dancing for all ages, but particularly, retirees.

The ATA contact Club Kibrahacha 60+ in Piedra Plat, one of the most progressive social foundations dedicated to activities and education for the elderly. The suggestion met with enthusiastic response and Board Vice-President, Jeffrey Matos quickly arranged for similar organiza-

tions around the island to bus in their clients so it could be enjoyed by retirees beyond Kibrahacha's membership.

The Hootenanny will take place on from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM in the Club Kibrahacha's social hall.

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KIA, Animal Rights Aruba and Aruba Dog Academy to join forces



The Aruba prison (KIA), Animal Rights Aruba (ARA) and the Aruba Dog Academy has begun working on a special project which will involve prisoners. These inmates will be guided by certified dog trainer, Tito Lacle using asylum dogs.

Inmates will first learn how to become a "pack leader and teach the dogs basic obedience.

During the process, the inmate will develop personal social qualities which would improve his conduct and prepare him for his future return to the community. The project is slated to begin February 18 and will last for five consecutive weeks. KIA will provide the inmates, while ARA will provide the dogs to be trained.

KIA desires to offer inmates a re-socialization and rehabilitation internship during their time in the institution. It is important for KIA to be able to, by means of this program, teach prisoners how

to do personal reflection, control aggression, manage disappointment and sadness, and deal with emotions and to learn something new. All of these aspects will emerge during the relationship of a person with a dog.

ANIMAL RIGHTS ARUBA

ARA takes stray dogs off the streets and tries to place them with families as adopted animals, which is their primary objective as a foundation. In this context they are convinced

that a properly trained dog, who understands basic obedience, will have a better chance of being adopted into a new family. In this way, this project helps to solve the problem of stray dogs.

Natalie Booi, recognized local veterinarian, and member of the board of ARA, expressed great enthusiasm for the idea. She believes that this program would definitely improve the quality of life of animals on Aruba.

ARUBA DOG ACADEMY

Aruba Dog Academy will provide the training. Well known local personality, Tito Lacle, who for the past year and a half has been practicing the art of dog training will be the professional trainer/teacher. Lacle is offering his services free of charge, which includes his time and knowledge. According to Lacle, for Aruba Dog Academy, this is one way of contributing to the commu-



nity.

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE

With respect to the content of the course, this will include basic commands such as "sit," "stay," "come," "heel" and others. The most important matter is to learn to understand and use the learning principles for the individual as well as for the dog.

The idea behind the program is originally from the USA where various penitentiary institutions are using similar canine programs with a focus on inmates.

Lacle has indicated that while the idea presented to KIA was his own, the original concept is one that has been in existence for many years in the USA which has also been extremely successful.

There will be many challenges for our situation here with respect to the logistics of the project. In the USA, the dog gets to stay with the inmate so that they can create

a bond with the dog he is training. For KIA in Aruba, this will not be possible as yet. In our situation the dogs and group of inmates will be brought together at a neutral place twice per week during the training process.

INDIVIDUAL BENEFITS FOR THE INMATE

During 5 weeks the inmates who participate in the program, will experience a twice-weekly internship. During this period they will not only learn how a dog is positively disciplined, they will also learn to improve certain personal aspects. The program has proven, internationally, that those who participate learn to eliminate stress, reduce aggressiveness and demonstrate a more social attitude. At the same time the inmate is learning something that could be useful to him when he leaves the prison.

FINAL RESULT and the FUTURE

At the end of the course, the participating inmate and the dog he trained, will receive a certificate from the Aruba Dog Academy. The trained dog will then certainly be ready to find an adoptive family much easier now that he is trained.

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Aruba welcomes the Nasser-Hunter Square Dance group on Adventure of the Seas

Continued from pg 1



Students from the University of Aruba studying Organizational, Governance and Management. Kimberly van Loon, Geneida Geerman, Shanira Clara and Tony

Khalil have made the event their class project. It promises to be a rewarding morning of fine dancing and interaction between island residents and visitors.

The ATA has decided to demonstrate their gratitude to the Nasser-Hunter Group by meeting them at the terminal with a tour bus that will take them to Club Kibrahacha, then for a tour of the island and lunch as guests of the ATA, once they have completed their dance program. ATA and Aruba Ports Authority officials were more than pleased by the offer of the dance group to share their love for this typically American art form, and welcome the opportunity for cruise ship passengers to truly connect with Arubans and enjoy some island hospitality.

By Rosalie Klein

Prof. Dr. Wubbo Ockels begins "Green's Cool" school program



Prof. Dr. Wubbo Ockels

Secondary schools on Aruba are invited to participate in a program dubbed, "Green's Cool."

The purpose of this educational program is to make schools sustainable and students more aware of the problems related to energy. The program consists of a competition for students of secondary schools. These students will be required to work in teams and to search for answers to investigative questions. Teachers will act as their coaches.

The program is slated to begin next week with a visit to all interested schools. That same week participating teachers will receive a tour aboard Wubbo Ockels' "Ecolution" with its zero emission system. According to Ockels, "...the world is a spatial ship moving in space. Just like the front of a ship is protected from rough waves with a fine sheet of iron, in the same way our world is protected by a fine sheet of air, the so called ozone layer." The former astronaut uses this comparison

to illustrate the importance of implementing sustainable energy.

Ockels is in Aruba to support the Aruba government's quest for realizing their green vision focused on making Aruba 100% sustainable by the year 2020. Last Wednesday Ockels spoke to a group of teachers on how to develop future sustainable schools.

The former astronaut considers it important to make everyone aware of the importance of sustainability.

He asserts that sustainable energy makes people happy. For this reason he always talks about happy energy.

Ockels recounted that during their long voyage between the Canary Islands and the Caribbean Islands - a distance of 3 thousand kilometers - they did not see land for 17 days! They were totally dependent on the ship, in the same way that we are dependent on planet earth. During their voyage, they generated a great deal of energy with the help of pro-

pellers under the boat, comparable to wind mills under water. They generated more energy than they needed and all was sustainable energy.

Professor Ockels is convinced that we must take the positive message of sustainable energy to our children. He says, we ought to take the message to our schools and to give lessons in sustainable environments. Schools should challenge students to come up with their own ideas as to how their schools can become more sustainable. Put the best ideas into practice. This way the school may be able to save money that could be used for things that students consider important. In this manner sustainability can be applied on the short as well as long term and students can be awarded for their input. This in turn will make for happy students, according to Professor Ockels.



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Island youth are determined to get out the vote



John Croes, Jordan Hilario and Gershwin Lacle

2013 is a very important year for Aruba as national elections, conducted every four years, will take place in September. The island usually has a very high rate of voter turnout, 85%, but members of the "First Time Voters Committee" of the United Aruba Foundation want to be sure that the other 15% do their civic duty.

Led by Jordan Hilario, who this year, along with fellow committee member Gershwin Lacle will be voting for the first time, a group has formed determined to see that other youth, coming of age to cast their vote, also participate in this year's election.

The committee will be conducting their first informative conference regarding voter's rights and responsibilities on Saturday, February 23 in the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Westin Aruba Resort. The conference, titled "Let Your Vote Count!," will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and attendance is free. Registration and welcome will start at 5:30 p.m.

Though this conference is aimed at stimulating those who have just come of age to register and participate, it is also takes into consideration the many who have had the right during past elections, but not exercised it.

Continued on pg 5



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The story behind “Dancing with the wind” by artist Miriam de L’Isle symbolizing the strong union between Aruba, Holland and the USA

The sculpture can be viewed in the Sculpture Garden at the Airport



ORANJESTAD – In November of last year Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) proudly opened the Sculpture Garden at the airport to promote contemporary local art at the Queen Beatrix International Airport. The Sculpture

also rotates on its own axis by the wind or by the gentle interaction of the observer.

The squares are painted in the colors red, white, blue on one side and turquoise blue, white, yellow and red on the other side, symbolizing the flag of Holland and the US on one side and Aruba on the other side. When the squares rotate the colors fuse into one another becoming a spectacle of color and movement, symbolizing the strong union between Aruba, Holland and the US.

The base of the sculpture is fabricated of stainless steel and elevates the sculpture to a total height of approximately 1.50 meters, thus giving the whole sculpture a monumental proportion.

AAA hereby invites you to drop by and visit the sculpture garden, where you can view all the 7 sculptures made by local artists. The Sculpture Garden is situated at the airport between the US check-in area and the local immigrations on the US side, right behind 14Bis Restaurant.

Garden contains 7 unique sculptures made by local artists.

One artist in particular, Miriam de L’Isle wanted to display the use of aluminium and stainless steel in her “Kinetic Art” creation. Kinetic Art is art that contains moving parts or depends on motion for its effect.

“Dancing with the wind” consists of 25 aluminium squares encapsulated in a frame. Each square rotates individually on its own axis while the whole sculpture

Valentine’s Day at Paseo Herencia was super romantic

Last Thursday evening Valentine’s Day at the Plaza Padu at the Paseo Herencia was celebrated in a romantic ambience.

The night started off with a romantic presentation by well-known saxophonist Paul Carrasquilla who enthralled everyone on the Plaza Padu with the sweet sound of his music.

The Restaurant and stores were all buzzing with customers looking for that last minute gift for their loved one.

Both locals and tourist enjoyed a tremendous night, dancing to romantic music and a perfect closing of the evening with the breathtaking fantasy show directed by Ritmo Cubano Production, followed by the much liked water show of Paseo Herencia.

If one is looking for ambience, Paseo Herencia is the place to be!



Island youth are determined to get out the vote

Continued from pg 3

"This is when ordinary citizens can do more than just complain about what they feel is lacking in representation of their interests, they can have their say in a tangible manner," stated the committee when announcing the upcoming conference. A group of expert panelists will inform on the voting laws and answer questions.

During this time leading to the conference, updates and information will be posted to the First Time Voters 2013 (FTV) Facebook page. Organizers request those planning to attend please register on their FB page or via e-mail: ftvconference2013@gmail.com. Representatives of FTV will be visiting the night schools to register students and provide information.

A contest is also being conducted to stimulate interest in the September elections and the electoral process. Registrants are invited to make a short video answering the question "Why is it so important we exercise our right to vote?" and post it to the FTV Facebook page. The contest is open only to first time voters. Invite friends to view and like the video and the FB page; the three best videos will receive prizes.

Deadline for contest entries is February 21. Winners of the video contest will be announced during the February 23rd conference. Following the event at the Westin Resort, the organizers will be conducted an after party at Local Store in Oranjestad with live music from Upgrade Band and DJ's Karixon and Nutzbeatz.

All interested parties are encouraged to visit their FTV page to view and "like" the posted videos and keep up on election information.

By Rosalie Klein

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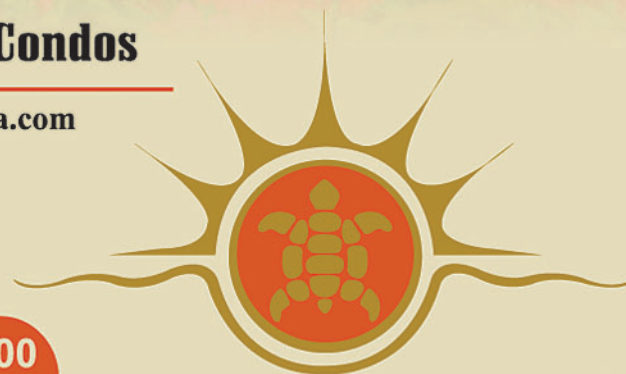
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Cage ready to make DreamWorks romp into franchise

BERLIN (AFP) - The makers of the new DreamWorks 3-D animated movie "The Croods", including stars Nicolas Cage and Emma Stone, said Friday they're ready to turn it into the studio's next sequels juggernaut.

Following monster-hit series like "Shrek", "Madagascar" and "Kung Fu Panda", DreamWorks made "The Croods", a prehistoric romp directed by Kirk De Micco and Chris Sanders that had its world premiere at the 63rd Berlinale.

The movie, which got a warm reception at the festival, features the overprotective caveman dad Grug (voiced by Cage) trying to shield his family from the dangers of an unknown world beyond their grotto hideaway.

But his teenager daughter Eep (Stone) has a rebellious streak that gets stoked by a lone wolf (Ryan Reynolds) who introduces her to fire and lures her to "follow the light" and leave her sheltered life behind.



Asked whether "The Croods" could be the start of another successful franchise, Cage said: "Yes, I would like to see another adventure with The Croods."

Sanders said he thought the characters -- including a stunning array of now-extinct beasts -- had "universal" appeal.

"I can't even tell you how many sequences we didn't really ever end up putting in the film so if we did have to make another one, we could pull it together with lots of

spare parts right now, with lots of good stuff left over," Sanders said.

Stone, best known for "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "Crazy, Stupid, Love", said playing Eep was "one of the most fun things I've ever gotten to do".

"The Croods has elements of all of my favorite movies which is that it's not just funny and it's not just heart-breaking, it takes you on a journey throughout the entire film," she said.

Venezuela releases first photos of sick Chavez

Continued from pg 1

The four images broke a virtual news blackout for Venezuelans who have been living in limbo without their media-happy comandante -- a populist firebrand who is the most visible face of the Latin American left and who has irked the United States by aligning himself with Iran, Syria and Cuba.

Until now Venezuelans had not seen a photo or TV image of Chavez, nor heard the voice of a man usually omnipresent across state media. Sketchy government updates about his health fueled speculation he was actually dead.

Chavez's absence has also enraged political opponents, who wondered aloud who was running Venezuela, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves.

He was last seen as he left Caracas airport on December 10 for treatment in Cuba.

On Thursday night, opposition leader Henrique Capriles kept up his assertion that the government has probably been lying about Chavez's health, suggesting the president is in worse shape than officials have said he is.

Capriles expressed fresh anger over the release of the pictures and said they had not clarified the president's true health condition.

However the pro-Chavez camp was jubilant to see their hero, and could not resist a dig at the rumors simmering on social media that Chavez was no more.

"Wow! For a dead man you look really good, comandante," tweeted @mormaldonado.

"He's alive, he's alive! Thanks be to God and to the whole world. This is proof," said Dora Salcedo, 67, one of dozens of Chavez fans gathered in downtown Caracas after the photos came out.

But Venezuelans will apparently have to wait longer for the former commando to break his silence.

He has been fitted with a breathing tube in his throat, making it hard for him to speak, Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said.

That's because of a respiratory infection that emerged after the surgery. The infection has been brought under control but "the underlying disease is not without complications," Villegas said in a televised speech to the nation.

It was Chavez's son in law Jorge Arreaza, also science minister, who showed the printed photos of Chavez on television.

"We wanted to share with you now some shots from last night of our commander accompanied by his two daughters Rosa Virginia and Maria Gabriela ... yesterday on the day of friendship, on Valentine's Day," Arreaza said.

The pictures are similar to each other, and show Chavez with the daughters, one on either side of him, looking through the Cuban newspaper. Chavez wears a white baseball-type jacket that goes up to his neck. The breathing tube is not visible, with the leader lying back, his face puffy, but smiling.

These pictures "put us at ease," Arreaza said in a broadcast that all radio and TV stations were ordered to carry.

Chavez remains alert with all his mental faculties intact and is "in close collaboration with his government team and on top off all the issues" facing the government, Villegas said.

But Capriles reacted with scorn. He said that while just a few days ago government officials who have been shuttling back and forth to Havana said they had spoken to Chavez "now they say he cannot speak. They are making a mockery of their own people," Capriles tweeted.

Chavez was first diagnosed with cancer in 2011. After surgery and treatment he declared himself free of the disease and went on to win another term in elections last October.

But he suffered a relapse, and after the latest surgery he was still too sick to come back to Venezuela for his scheduled inauguration on January 10. It has been postponed indefinitely, and Vice President Nicolas Maduro has essentially been running Venezuela.

The government has never said where Chavez's cancer is located or how serious it was or is.

Opposition parties insist Chavez's term ended January 10 and that if he cannot start a new one in person, an interim president should be named pending a decision on whether Chavez should be declared incapacitated, in which case a new election would be called quickly.

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Boeing stands by lithium-ion batteries

NEW YORK (AFP) - US aerospace giant Boeing said Friday it will continue to use lithium-ion batteries, despite rival Airbus saying it would avoid them following two incidents on the Boeing 787.

"Boeing is confident in the safety and reliability of lithium-ion batteries," said Boeing spokesman Marc Birtel.

"Our years of experience and deep expertise confirm that, like other technologies, when the appropriate battery, system and airplane protections are in place, lithium-ion batteries deliver significant benefits," Birtel said.

Boeing's 787 Dreamliners were grounded indefinitely worldwide in January worldwide after battery smoke forced an emergency landing

of one plane and a battery fire was reported on a parked plane.

US air safety investigators have yet to determine what caused a short circuit in a single cell on the eight-cell lithium-ion battery in a Japan Airlines 787 at Boston's Logan airport on January 7, apparently leading to the fire.

Boeing competitor Airbus plans to avoid using lithium-ion batteries in the A350 long-range liner under development, a company source told AFP on Friday.

"The first planes will be delivered with cadmium, not lithium batteries," the source said, adding that the airliner's first test flights will nevertheless take place with lithium-ion batteries.

Mexico's 'Chapo' is Chicago's new Public Enemy No. 1

CHICAGO (AFP) - Move over Al Capone: Chicago has declared Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman the city's public enemy number one.

The boss of the powerful Sinaloa drug cartel, whose nickname means "Shorty" in Mexican slang, became just the second criminal to be labeled as the Windy City's top foe.

Guzman, the Chicago Crime Commission said, "has easily surpassed the carnage and social destruction that was caused by Capone." The kingpin is accused of using Chicago "as his drug trafficking hub for the Midwest."

Guzman, who has made it into Forbes magazine's list of

billionaires, was captured in Guatemala in 1993 but escaped from Mexican prison in 2001 by hiding inside a laundry basket.

His cartel has allegedly trafficked 1.5 to 2 tonnes of cocaine through Chicago per month, and he is wanted in Chicago on charges of international drug trafficking conspiracy along with 35 other defendants, the commission said.

Mexican Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said Friday that capturing Guzman "is the most important objective" of the government of President Enrique Pena Nieto, who took office in December.

Famous last tweets captured for posterity

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Someone's famous last words are now likely to be famous last tweets.

A blog launched this week, theweethereafter.com, captures some of those final 140-character comments as part of an unusual tribute to the newly departed.

"What do you have up your sleeve for your love tomorrow??? #getexcited #ValentinesDay," was the final message from Reeva Steenkamp, the model and girlfriend of South African Olympic star Oscar Pistorius, who was killed in a Valentine's Day shooting in which her boyfriend is charged. Michael McWatters, a technology professional, said he had been collecting these tweets with colleague Jamie Forrest, "not sure whether our project was something we really wanted to announce formally or not."

But he said the "grim tragedy" in South Africa prompted them to make the site public.

"In many of the tweets there you'll likely find no deep meaning. In others, however, lie fascinating, inspiring, frightening, and perhaps tragic insights," he said. Spanish mountain biker Inaki Lejarreta, 29, wrote a somewhat more ominous last tweet before being fatally injured by a car: "Windy morning. It looks dangerous to do outside training, so I start with Gym and after that, we'll see."

"The site is certainly morbid, sometimes interesting, quite often meaningless. But we hope it makes you think a little bit," Forrest said.

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International News

Meteor strike in Russia hurts almost 1,000



The meteorite trail is seen above a residential apartment block in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk.

MOSCOW (AFP) - A plunging meteor exploded with a blinding flash above central Russia on Friday, setting off a shockwave that shattered windows and hurt almost 1,000 people in an event unprecedented in modern times.

Experts insisted the meteor's fiery entry into the atmosphere was not linked to the asteroid 2012 DA 14 which is expected to pass about 17,200 miles (27,700 kilometres) above the Earth later Friday in an unusually close approach.

But the extraordinary event brought morning traffic to a sudden halt in the Urals city of Chelyabinsk as shocked drivers stopped to watch the falling meteor partially burning up in the lower atmosphere and light up the sky.

The fall of such a large meteor estimated as weighing dozens of tonnes was extremely rare, while the number of casualties as a consequence of its burning up around a heavily-inhabited area was unprecedented.

Chelyabinsk regional governor Mikhail Yurevich, quoted by the RIA Novosti

news agency, said 950 people were injured, with two-thirds of the injuries light wounds from glass shards and other materials blown out by the shockwave.

Windows were blown out by the shockwave across the city's region with the ministry saying almost 300 buildings were damaged including schools, hospitals, a zinc factory and even an ice hockey stadium.

The office of the local governor said that a meteorite had fallen into a lake outside the town of Chebarkul in the Chelyabinsk region and television images pointed to a six-metre (20-foot) hole in the frozen lake's ice.

However it has yet to be finally confirmed if meteorite fragments made contact with the Earth and there were no reports that any locals had been hurt directly by a falling piece of meteorite.

Schools were closed for the day and theatre shows cancelled across the region after the shock wave blew out windows amid temperatures as low as minus 18 degrees Cel-

sus (zero degrees Fahrenheit).

The Russian Academy of Sciences said in a statement that it estimated the body to be several metres long and weighing several dozen tonnes. "It burned up at a height of 30-50 kilometres... but pieces could have fallen to Earth as meteorites."

The meteor explosion appears to be one of the most stunning cosmic events above Russia since the 1908 Tunguska Event, when a massive blast most scientists blame on an asteroid or a comet impact ripped through Siberia.

With the meteor already becoming a leading trend on Twitter, locals posted amateur footage on YouTube showing men swearing in surprise and fright, and others grinding their cars to a halt.

The Chelyabinsk region is Russia's industrial heartland, filled with smoke-chugging factories and other huge facilities that include a nuclear power plant and the massive Mayak atomic waste storage and treatment centre.

A spokesman for Rosatom, the Russian nuclear energy state corporation, said that its operations remained unaffected.

The emergencies ministry said radiation levels in the region also did not change and that 20,000 rescue workers had been dispatched to help the injured and locate those requiring help.



Dutch meat wholesaler raided for 'mixing horse and beef'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch officials on Friday raided a meat processing plant in the south of the Netherlands believed to be mixing horsemeat and beef and selling it on as pure beef, the public prosecutor said.

The plant in North Brabant province allegedly bought horse carcasses from the Netherlands and Ireland which were shredded and mixed with beef and sold on as pure beef, the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

It was not clear whether the plant in question was connected with the horsemeat scandal sweeping through Europe and it was not known where the allegedly mixed meat was eventually delivered, the statement said.

Dutch media said the plant belonged to Willy Selten and was in the city of Oss.

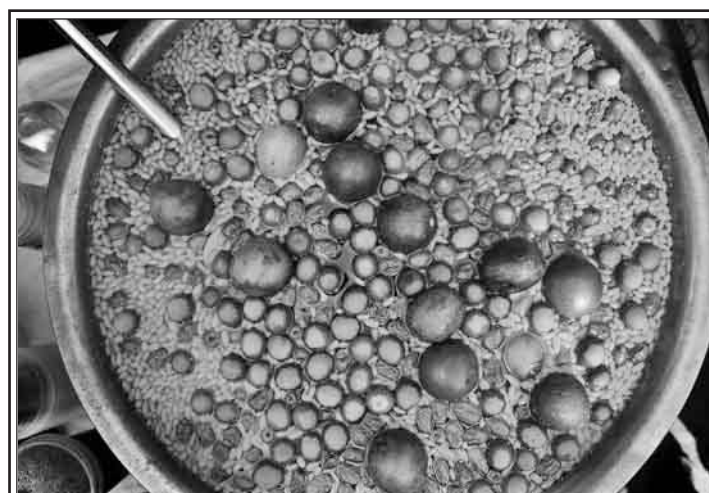
The website of Selten's wholesale meat company says it is "an internationally operating company, specialising in boning and cutting beef" that employs about 100 people.

It handles imports from various European countries and delivers to retailers, meat wholesalers, butchers, the meat processing industry and supermarkets throughout Europe.

The plant was probed as part of a criminal investigation by the prosecutor's office and the government's NVWA food and consumer watchdog. It is suspected of fraud and money laundering, the prosecutor's office said.

Officials seized company paperwork during the raid, which came as the European Union agreed to launch tests for horse DNA in meat products as part of a plan to battle food fraud following the eruption of the horsemeat scandal.

Since the problem was first discovered in Ireland in January, governments have scrambled to figure out how and where the mislabelling of the meat happened in the sprawling chain of production spanning abattoirs and meat suppliers across Europe.



BEIJING (AFP): A Traditional Chinese New Year sweet soup is made from berries, at the Dongyue Temple in Beijing on February 15, 2013. China is welcoming the Year of the Snake and tradition proclaims that a snake in the house is a good sign because it means the family will not starve and children born in the Year of the Snake will be cunning, intelligent and wise

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Health & Living

Dengue Fever:

-- Dengue (pronounced DENgee) fever is a painful, debilitating mosquito-borne disease caused by any one of four closely related dengue viruses. These viruses are related to the viruses that cause West Nile infection and yellow fever.

Dengue fever is transmitted by the bite of an Aedes mosquito infected with a dengue virus. The mosquito becomes infected when it bites a person with dengue virus in their blood. It can't be spread directly from one person to another person.

Symptoms of Dengue Fever:

Symptoms, which usually begin four to six days after infection and last for up to 10 days, may include

- *Sudden, high fever
- *Severe headaches
- *Pain behind the eyes
- *Severe joint and muscle pain
- *Nausea
- *Vomiting
- *Skin rash, which appears three to four days after the onset of fever
- *Mild bleeding (such as a nose bleed, bleeding gums, or easy bruising)

Sometimes symptoms are mild and can be mistaken for those of the flu or another viral infection. Younger children and people who have never had the infection before tend to have milder cases than older children and adults. However, serious problems can develop. These include dengue hemorrhagic fever, a rare complication characterized by high fever, damage to lymph and blood vessels, bleeding from the nose and gums, enlargement of the liver, and failure of the circulatory system. The symptoms may progress to massive bleeding, shock, and death. This is called dengue shock syndrome (DSS).



People with weakened immune systems as well as those with a second or subsequent dengue infection are believed to be at greater risk for developing dengue hemorrhagic fever.

Diagnosing Dengue Fever

Doctors can diagnose dengue infection with a blood test to check for the virus or antibodies to it. If you become sick after traveling to a tropical area, let your doctor know.

Treatment of Dengue Fever

There is no specific medicine to treat dengue infection. If you think you may have dengue fever, you should use pain relievers with acetaminophen and avoid medicines with aspirin, which could worsen bleeding. You should also rest, drink plenty of fluids, and see your doctor. If you start to feel worse in the first 24 hours after your fever goes down, you should get to a hospital immediately to be

checked for complications.

Preventing Dengue Fever

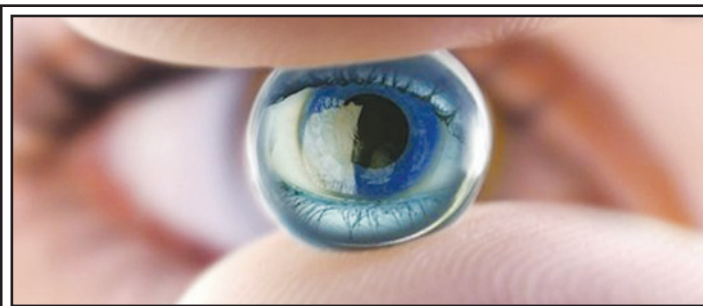
There is no vaccine to prevent dengue fever. The best way to prevent the disease is to prevent bites by infected mosquitoes, particularly if you are living in or traveling to a tropical area. This involves protecting yourself and making efforts to keep the mosquito population down.

To reduce the mosquito population, get rid of places where mosquitoes can breed. These include old tires, cans, or flower pots that collect rain. Regularly change the water in outdoor bird baths and pets' water dishes.

If someone in your home gets dengue fever, be especially vigilant about efforts to protect yourself and other family members from mosquitoes. Mosquitoes that bite the infected family member could spread the infection to others in your home.



The photo on top shows larvae of Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for dengue infection, swimming in rainwater accumulated in a discarded pot.



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US regulators approved a so-called bionic eye on Thursday, giving hope to people with a rare genetic disease. Developed by California-based Second Sight Medical Products, Inc., the Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System is the first retinal implant for adults with advanced retinitis pigmentosa that results in the gradual loss of vision and can lead to blindness. The device includes a small video camera and a transmitter mounted on a pair of glasses, as well as a video processing unit and an implanted retinal prosthesis that replaces the function of degenerated cells in the retina. Already greenlighted by European regulators, the FDA approved the Argus II as a humanitarian use device, which is limited to instruments that treat or diagnose fewer than 4,000 people in the United States annually.

Challenge to cancer gene patent fails in Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) - An Australian court Friday dismissed a challenge against the patenting of human genetic material in a landmark case which has devastated a cancer group that says it could stifle research.

The case hinged on whether a valid patent can be granted to cover naturally occurring nucleic acids, the building blocks of living organisms -- in this case the so-called breast cancer gene BRCA1.

Federal Court Justice John Nicholas rejected the argument that BRCA1, a genetic mutation associated with an increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer in women, could not be patented because it was a naturally occurring substance.

He ruled instead in favour of the two medical research companies that hold the patent, US-based Myriad Genetics and Melbourne-based Genetic Technologies Ltd.

"There is no doubt that naturally occurring DNA and RNA as they exist inside the cells of the human body cannot

be the subject of a valid patent," his judgement concluded. DNA and RNA are types of nucleic acid.

"However, the disputed claims do not cover naturally occurring DNA and RNA as they exist inside such cells.

The decision is the first in the country to consider whether isolated DNA or RNA sequences can be patented and lawyers for Cancer Voices Australia, which brought the case, have argued it raises ethical issues about the commercialisation of the human body.

The judgement is a blow to the cancer campaigners, with the woman who brought the case, Yvonne D'Arcy, leaving the court in tears.

"To tell the truth I'm very disappointed," she told reporters. "We were doing this for future generations, and I'm just so disappointed."

Cancer Voices Australia also expressed its disappointment in losing the case which it said was for people with all diseases with genetic markers.



Dare to eat Dutch

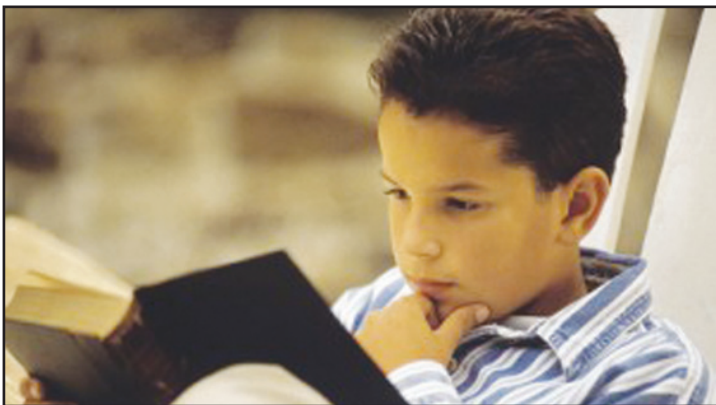
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Sci-Tech

Stereo learning: infants distinguish between languages



PARIS (AFP) - Even before they can talk, infants as young as seven months who grow up in bilingual homes acquire a special ability to distinguish between languages, researchers said.

Scientists are still baffled by the mechanics of language learning, and how bilingual infants master their mother tongues as efficiently as monolinguals do.

A new study to shed light on the subject revealed that children who learn two languages at the same time develop the ability, which

monolinguals do not, to identify a language through the duration and pitch of words, and their position in a sentence.

The study, reported in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*, examined seven-month-old children who grow up with two languages with inverse word orders -- such as English and Japanese.

In languages like English, Italian or Spanish, prepositions and articles typically precede "content words" like nouns (to London/the house) while in other tongues they follow them (Tokyo ni -

'Tokyo to' in Japanese, or etxe bat - 'house a' in Basque), and the pitch of the content word is higher.

The test involved familiarising the infants, through repetition, to one of two fake languages -- one with the rhythm of the English group of languages, the other resembling the Japanese group.

"Phrases" were then played for the kids over hidden speakers, both in the language they learnt and the one they did not, measuring the time they looked in the direction of each.

The bilingual babies "looked several seconds longer" in the direction of the language they had been exposed to -- a scientific measure of recognition, study co-author Janet Werker told AFP.

When the same test was done with monolingual infants growing up in English homes, they made no distinction.

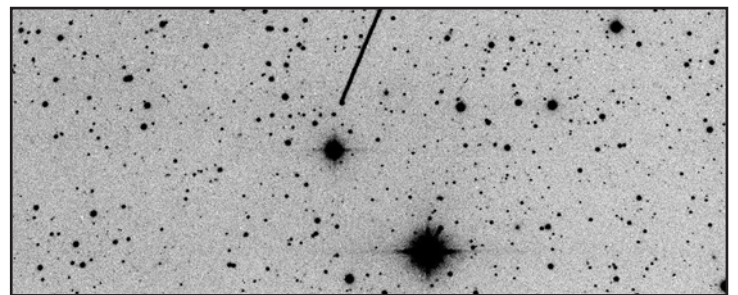
"Our study showed... that infants growing up bilingual in languages that have a different word order are able to use these word duration and pitch cues, whereas infants growing up monolingual are not," said Werker.

"If you speak two languages at home, don't be afraid, it's not a zero-sum game. Your baby is very equipped to keep these languages separate and they do so in remarkable ways."

The team said their work demonstrated how studying bilingual infants can reveal mechanisms of language acquisition.

"As the majority of the world's population today is exposed to multiple languages from birth, a better understanding of their early cognitive development might have considerable impact on social and educational policies world-wide," they wrote.

Asteroid whizzes safely past Earth



BOSTON (AFP) - A closely tracked asteroid, about 150-feet (45-meters) wide, whizzed safely past Earth on Friday, the same day a much smaller, previously undetected meteor hit Russia, injuring nearly 1,000 people.

Live images from a telescope at the Gingin Observatory in western Australia showed the asteroid looking like a white streak, moving across against a backdrop of black sky.

Astronomers said the object's speed and proximity made it a challenge to track, because telescopes had to be aimed precisely or risked missing it.

The asteroid, dubbed 2012 DA 14, passed around 17,200 miles (27,000 kilometers) above the Earth at the time of closest approach, about 2:25 pm EST (1925 GMT), NASA said.

The US space agency had said in a statement on its website that this was "the closest-ever predicted approach to

Earth for an object this large."

The asteroid isn't nearly as large as the 10-kilometer (six-mile) wide object that took out the dinosaurs, but astronomers said it was large enough that, had it struck the Earth's surface, it could wipe out a large urban area.

However, the asteroid's path kept it well away from Earth and from the ring of communications satellites in Earth's orbit, and NASA said the object's orbit would keep it further from the planet in the foreseeable future.

NASA said the flyby provided a "unique opportunity for researchers to study a near-Earth object up close."

The 2012 DA 14 was discovered by chance by astronomers after passing nearby last February.

NASA estimates a smallish asteroid such as 2012 DA 14 flies close to Earth every 40 years on average, but only hits our planet once every 1,200 years.



DAYEUKOLOLOT (AFP) : Residents use inflatable boats to evacuate from the flooded district of Dayeuhkolot, in Bandung regency in West Java province on February 15, 2013. Several areas of Bandung regency were submerged by floodwaters after heavy rains and the Citarum river overflowed. Hundreds of residents evacuated to higher grounds.



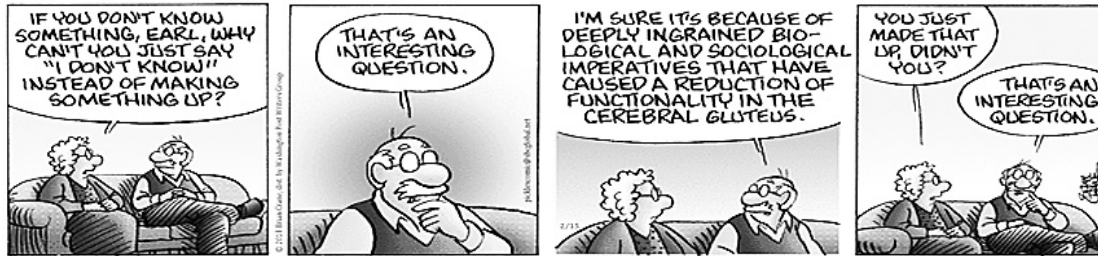
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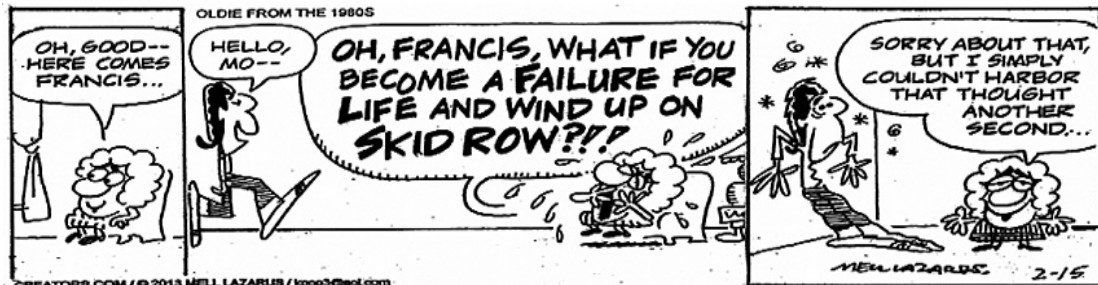
COMICS



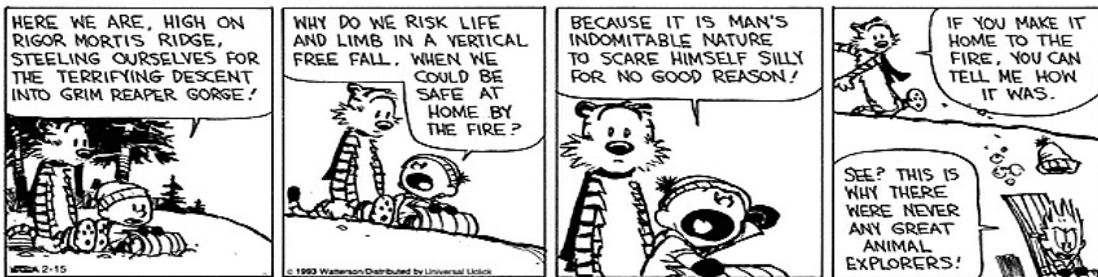
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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OFF YOUR FEET

ACROSS

1. "___ Good Men" (Tom Cruise film)
5. Genetic building block
8. Ending for major or bachelor
12. Emery board
13. Tree that bears triangular nuts
15. Diagnostic picture
16. Triple jump for Boitano
17. Muse of marriage songs
18. Pasty
19. Place for a snooze
21. Suspended sentences?
23. Fine
24. Type of frost
25. "___ Sides Now"
26. "Cheers" perch
30. Stadium
32. Like a line leader
33. Classic racecar, for short
34. Guideline
35. DDE
36. Cultivate
37. "Evita" role
38. Actress Moorehead
40. Skedaddles
41. Kind of quarterback
43. Homeowner's document
44. Airwave buffs
45. Comic Rudner
46. Stegner's "Angle of ___"
49. Living room item
53. Completed
54. "Superman"

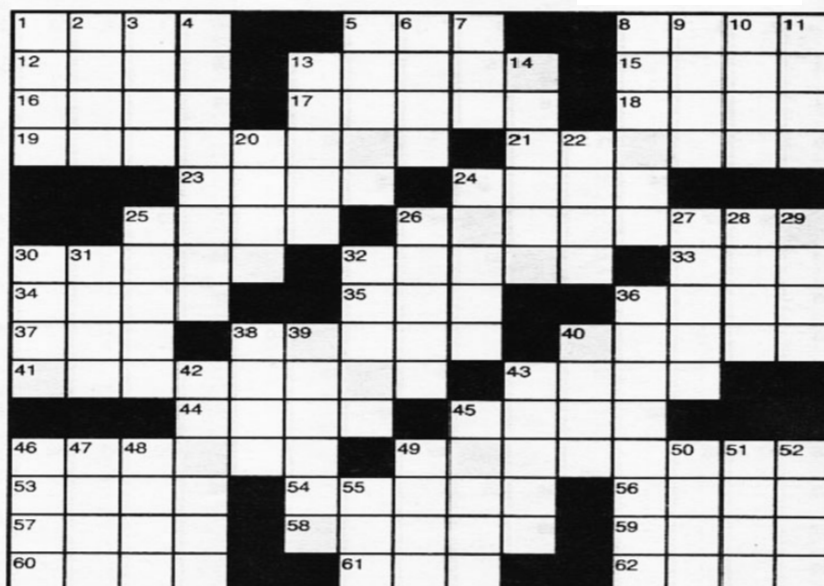
56. "New Yorker" cartoonist Ed
57. Marseilles mother
58. Passover meal
59. Victory goddess
60. Company head: abbr.
61. "When I was a ___"
62. Hot brews

DOWN

1. Whence the lovelorn worship
2. Prix ___
3. Current: abbr.
4. "Bully for you!"
5. ___ and the Dominos
6. In close proximity
7. "___ your age!"

8. Corn, for the U.S.
9. Refrain syllables
10. "The Handmaid's ___" (Atwood)
11. Watches
13. Pigeon-feeding perch
14. Respects
20. Scintilla
22. Kiln for drying hops
24. Long-eared jumpers
25. Brazilian port
26. Harley fan
27. Leered
28. Siouan Indian
29. Points of decline
30. Ancient chest
31. River to the Rhine
32. Last word of a French film
36. "___ Valley

- Sunday" (Monkees)
38. Sounds of discovery
39. Dicers
40. Grand gala
42. Taking out the trash et al.
43. Auk or grebe, e.g.
45. Wandered
46. Frisk about
47. Word in a lover's promise
48. Henri's father
49. Mother of Castor and Pollux
50. Cleveland's lake
51. "Puppy Love" singer
52. Sock ends
55. Wiggly fish



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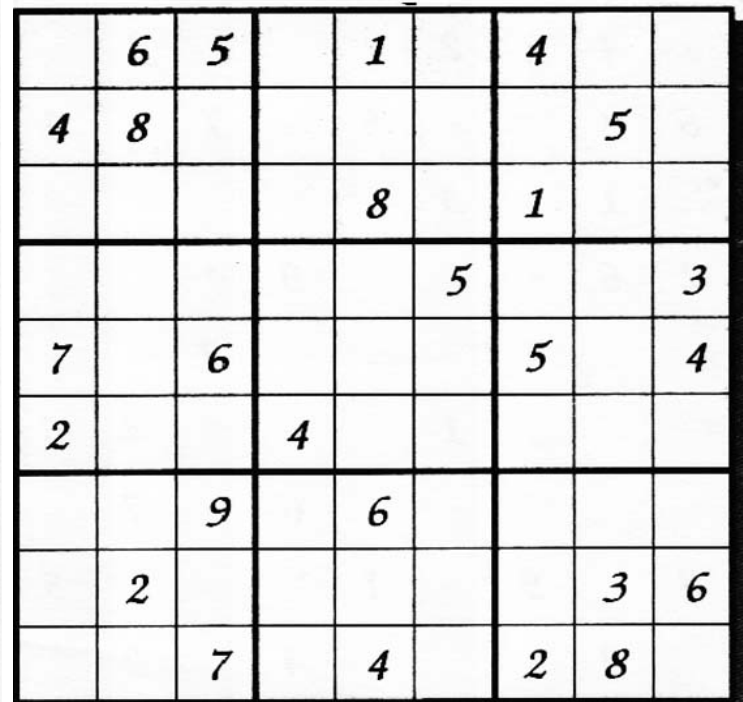
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	8	7	6	1	9	4	3	2
9	6	2	5	3	7	8	1	4
1	7	8	9	2	6	5	4	3
2	1	8	9	6	7	5	3	4
4	2	5	1	8	9	6	7	3
6	9	1	7	8	5	2	4	3
7	5	6	2	9	1	8	4	3
8	2	7	1	5	9	6	3	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



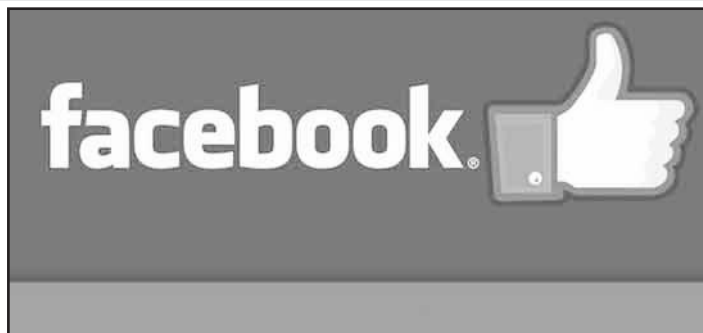
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Facebook users can pay to promote friends' posts



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Facebook on Friday said it is letting users pay to ensure that messages posted by friends at the leading social network get more attention.

The feature is being rolled out globally and comes less than four months after Facebook began letting members pay to have personal posts get priority in feeds seen by friends.

"Now, in addition to promoting your own posts, you can promote a friend's post, such as a fundraising or celebration announcement," Facebook said in a blog post.

"It's important to know that this feature respects the privacy of the original poster - it will promote to everyone who originally saw it."

A list of popular use cases included spotlighting a friend's efforts to raise money for charity; a move to a new city, or accomplishments

such as job promotions or college graduations.

The feature is only available for people with fewer than 5,000 friends at the social network, according to Facebook.

The California-based firm has been seeking new ways to generate revenue since it made a dismal stock market debut in May of last year.

Shares sank after making a debut at \$38 dollars but have regained some of the ground, trading at \$28.21 on the Nasdaq exchange mid-day Friday.

Finance

Spain plans town hall cut-backs to save 7 bn euros

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's government unveiled Friday plans to cut the salaries of small-town mayors and councillors in a drive to save seven billion euros in its crisis cost-saving campaign.

Budget Minister Cristobal Montoro said the savings made by cutting payments and slashing layers of "doubling-up" between regional and provincial bodies would save Spain 7.129 billion euros (\$9.5 billion) between 2013 and 2015.

Control of certain health, education, housing and social security services will be shifted to the bigger regional authorities and various municipal and small local groupings will be scrapped, he added.

Under the reform, yet to be approved by judicial authorities, 82 percent of councillors and mayors of towns with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants "will carry out their political activities without being paid for them", he said.

Mayors of big cities will have their salaries capped so they do not exceed those of junior ministers, Montoro told a news conference.

Spain's conservative government is fighting to stabilise the country's finances by lowering its public deficit. It has said it aims to make total savings of 150 billion euros between 2012 and 2014.

A recession brought on by the collapse of a building boom in 2008 has driven Spain's unemployment rate above 26 percent.



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Oil prices fall on profit-taking

NEW YORK (AFP) - Oil prices lurched lower Friday in New York as traders took profits ahead of a holiday weekend in the US.

A barrel of West Texas Intermediate settled at \$95.86, down \$1.45 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In London, a barrel of European benchmark Brent crude settled at \$117.66, 34 cents lower.

Friday's move followed a rally earlier this week during which the WTI price hit \$98.11 a barrel Wednesday.

Kyle Cooper, managing partner at Houston consultancy IAF Advisers, said Friday's economic data was neutral overall, as a weak number for US January industrial production was offset by strong results in a leading consumer confidence index and a better-than-expected Empire State Manufacturing report.

It is "a little difficult to ascertain" the reason for the drop in oil prices, said Cooper. "It appears to be a little more profit-taking rather than anything" in particular.

Andy Lebow, senior vice president for energy futures at Jefferies Bache, said the weak January industrial production number was "a catalyst" for the drop.

"Industrial production is something that oil traders watch pretty closely. As industrial production increases, so does demand for petroleum products," Lebow said.

Phil Flynn, analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago, pointed to a "heavy" market in crude characterized by copious supply and tepid demand. This was evident because crude didn't rally despite a run-up of 15 cents in US gasoline prices over the last two days.

"We had a big move in gasoline that crude didn't really react to," Flynn said. "That's a sign that the market is pretty well supplied on the oil front."

Walmart 2.2% drop pulls US stocks lower

NEW YORK (AFP) - A sharp fall in shares of the world's largest retailer Walmart pulled stocks lower Friday, though steep losses were averted by a final-hour rebound.

At the closing bell the broad-based S&P 500 was down 1.59 points (0.10 percent) to 1,519.79.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 8.37 points (0.06 percent) at 13,981.76, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite slid 6.63 points (0.21 percent) to 3,192.03.

Walmart shares lost 2.2 percent to \$69.28 after a news report cited company documents saying the company's sales so far in February were a "disaster."



LA CILIA (AFP) - Released Colombian police officer Victor Alfonso Gonzalez (L) is greeted by former Colombian Senator Piedad Cordoba in the village Montealegre, Cauca department, Colombia, on February 15, 2013. Leftist Colombian guerrillas on Friday released two police officers they had held for three weeks, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. The men were released in a rural area in Cauca department in southwestern Colombia and were in good health, the ICRC said in a statement.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Red rules the night at the Friends of the Handicapped Sweetheart's Ball



The Quality Apartments Crew



Volunteers of Friends of the Handicapped



Emil wins a dinner for two



For more than ten years now, this has been the choice of how to best spend this special day with your significant other for many Arubans and vacationers. The volunteer tourists who organize the event spend their winters on Aruba, during which they dedicate their time to raising funds for local foundations assisting the physically and mentally challenged.

Many attending the event took the holiday to heart, embracing red as the fun theme for the evening, some from top to toe! The Radisson Resort provided an excellent 4 course dinner as always, under the personal supervision of Executive Chef Kien-Fat Lie-Kwie. Nearly 200 dined and danced the night away to the mellow music of NBO Band, when they weren't jumping to carnival music.

Friends of the Handicapped volunteers expressed their gratitude to all the vendors who provided door prizes for the event, along with Noble Jeweler's, which annually donates a gorgeous piece offered as one of the main prizes of the auxiliary fundraising raffle. They are very pleased with the warm response from islanders and visitors to this annual effort to make Valentine's Day something really special, while assisting many worthy foundations on Aruba in their continued efforts to provide for the handicapped community.

by Rosalie Klein



--Everyone was seeing red while enjoying a wonderful Valentine's Day event that has become an annual tradition, the fundraising Sweetheart's Dinner Dance conducted by the Friends of the Handicapped foundation on Thursday evening.



Napoleon's engagement ring on auction in Paris

PARIS (AFP) - A simple diamond and sapphire engagement ring that Napoleon Bonaparte offered to his first wife Josephine goes on auction near Paris next month, the auction house Osenat said on Friday. The gold ring is topped by two pear-shaped stones and is estimated to fetch up to 12,000 euros (\$16,000) at



the March 24 auction in Fontainebleau, south of Paris. Napoleon married Josephine, the widow of French aristocrat Alexandre de Beauharnais, on March 9, 1796 just days after announcing their engagement. The marriage was not well received by Napoleon's family who were shocked he had married an older widow with two children. Two days after the wedding Napoleon left to lead the French army in Italy. The couple divorced in 1810 due to Josephine's inability to bear Napoleon a child. Despite numerous affairs, remarriage and then exile, Napoleon never forgot her and his last words, according to those near him on his death bed, were: "France. The army. The head of the army. Josephine."

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Keshi Yena with plaintains, vegetables and pica

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won

this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full

Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses of Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mus-



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

sels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food,

without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. **They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining.** Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

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For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

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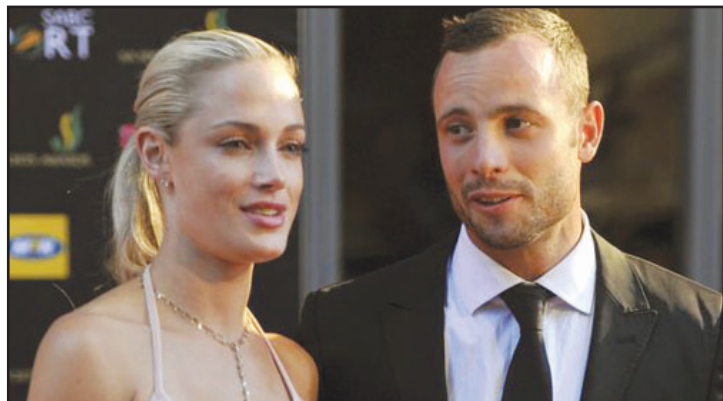
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Sport

Weeping Pistorius denies girlfriend's murder



PRETORIA (AFP) - Olympic star Oscar Pistorius broke down in tears in the dock on Friday as he was charged with the Valentine's Day murder of his model girlfriend, a charge he denied "in the strongest terms".

The 26-year-old South African Paralympian gold medallist sobbed as Pretoria magistrate Desmond Nair announced a single charge of killing his lover, blonde covergirl Reeva Steenkamp.

The double amputee was an inspirational hero of last year's London Olympics, but on Friday he sat hunched and sobbing as the court heard that prosecutors will argue the murder was premeditated, meaning he could face a life sentence.

He was to remain in custody after a bail hearing was delayed until Tuesday to allow the defence more time to prepare.

In a statement issued by Pistorius's family and management company after the court appearance, the fallen star said "the alleged murder is disputed in the strongest terms."

He also offered his condolences to those close to his former lover.

"Our thoughts and prayers today should be for Reeva and her family -- regardless

of the circumstances of this terrible, terrible tragedy."

Steenkamp, 29, was shot four times at Pistorius's up-market Pretoria home in the early hours of Thursday.

She had been due to appear in a celebrity reality show filmed in Jamaica from this weekend and producers said its broadcast would go ahead despite her death.

Steenkamp was killed with a 9mm pistol registered to Pistorius, suffering wounds to the head and hand and dying at the scene.

The Beeld newspaper said Friday the shots that killed Steenkamp were fired through a bathroom door but there was no police confirmation.

Steenkamp's death and Pistorius's apparent fall from grace captured the attention of millions, with press from around the world cramming the courtroom to cover events.

Better-known as "Blade Runner" because of his carbon fibre prostheses, Pistorius became the first double-amputee to compete alongside able-bodied athletes at the Olympics, suggesting that Pistorius had shot Steenkamp, his girlfriend since late last year, after mistaking her for a burglar.



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Tennis: Benneteau stuns Federer in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (AFP) - Frenchman Julien Benneteau sent defending champion Roger Federer crashing out of the Rotterdam World Tennis tournament on Friday with a stunning 6-3, 7-5 quarter-final upset.

Federer, who lifted the trophy in his last two appearances in 2005 and 2012, last suffered defeat in the event against Tim Henman in 2004.

"This was a dream match, and I played like a dream," said the 39th-ranked Benneteau, who earned a semi-final against either fifth-seeded compatriot Gilles Simon or Slovak Martin Klizan.

"This is for sure my biggest win. He was the favourite, but maybe he played a bit tight. I've been playing well all week, improving with each match.

"I've had a great week here so far and I hope it's not finished."

Federer was clearly off the boil from the start, beginning with an ace but losing the first game.

He was broken three times in the first set in a shocking display from the top seed and heavy crowd favourite at the Ahoy stadium.

The French challenger wrapped up the opening set and went up a break at 3-1 in the second as Federer's game continued to suffer.



But the Swiss stirred to life as he broke back to love for 3-4.

Federer then levelled at four games apiece before Benneteau saved three break points to hold for 6-5.

A game later, it was done, with Federer donating a double-fault for a match point and then missing the far corner with a backhand which was confirmed by electronic linecalling.

Second seed Juan Martin del Potro cruised into the semi-finals with a victory in straight sets against Finland's Jarkko Nieminen.

The Argentine won 6-3, 6-4, and will now face unseeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov who came from a set down to beat Marcos Baghdatis.

Del Potro took just under 90 minutes to go through, racking up 10 aces along the way before sealing victory on his second match point as the Finn

returned long.

"It was a difficult win, he's a lefty and hit his shots differently. He was fighting all the time and I had to play my best game to go through," said the 2009 US Open champion.

"It feels good to be in the semi-finals, I'm trying to repeat what I did last year (final) and go even farther.

"Dimitrov has a very good future. He's playing fantastic tennis, the match will be close for both sides."

Dimitrov beat Baghdatis 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/0), 6-3 in a performance that showed he is returning to the kind of form he produced at the start of the year, when he reached the final in Brisbane before losing to Andy Murray.

The Bulgarian had also beaten Baghdatis in three sets in that tournament, and he repeated the feat on Friday.

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NBA: LeBron ends record run, Heat beat Thunder



OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - LeBron James powered the Miami Heat to a 110-100 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday, but fell just short of extending a record-breaking scoring run.

James finished with 39 points and shot 58 percent from the field in a rematch of last year's NBA finals which the Heat won in five games.

In Miami's six previous wins, James did what no NBA player had ever achieved -- scoring at least 30 points each game while shooting at least 60 percent from the field.

The reigning playoff MVP was his usual dominant self Thursday at Chesapeake Energy Arena as he grabbed 12 rebounds and had seven assists, leading the Heat to their seventh consecutive win.

He appeared to be heading for his seventh straight 30-60 game but failed to connect on a three-point shot in the fourth quarter and had to settle for 14-of-24 shooting from the field.

Chris Bosh finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds, while Dwyane Wade had 13 points and eight assists for the Heat, who have won seven straight and 12 of their last 14.

James, Wade and Bosh will represent Miami in the 62nd

All-Star Game on Sunday in Houston.

Thursday's contest was the first of a four-game road trip for Miami and the last game before the all-star break.

Kevin Durant had 40 points on 12-of-24 shooting, while Russell Westbrook finished with 26 points, 10 assists and five rebounds for the Thunder, who had their seven-game win streak at home snapped Thursday.

At one point, Durant fell to the floor and landed with a heavy thud. He struggled early in the game and didn't make his first field goal until just over four minutes left in the second quarter.

James said double teaming Durant on defence was one of the keys to the win.

It marked just the fourth loss at home for Oklahoma City to go with 23 wins.

The Thunder were eliminated by the Heat in the playoffs and lost the first regular season rematch, 103-97, on Christmas Day in Florida.

Durant and Westbrook will represent the Thunder in the all-star showdown.

Baseball: Cabrera working with MLB doping probe



FLORIDA (AFP) - Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Melky Cabrera said Friday that he is cooperating with Major League Baseball's probe into a Miami clinic that allegedly gave players performance-enhancing drugs.

But the 28-year-old Dominican, banned 50 games for doping last year, was otherwise silent about ties to the Biogenesis clinic made public last month in a Miami New Times story based on records obtained from a former clinic worker.

Cabrera joined the Blue Jays after playing for World Series champion San Francisco last season but being dropped from the playoff roster after being banned for 50 games last August for a doping violation.

Cabrera was last year's All-Star Game Most Valuable Player and led the National League in batting at .346 with 11 home runs and 60 runs batted in over 113 games before being hit with the ban.

"Last season ended for me when I admitted taking a banned substance and accepted and served my punishment of a 50-game suspension," Cabrera said.

"Since that day, my goals have been to serve my punishment and to put that mistake behind me, and to work hard to be the best baseball player I can be.

"I also accepted the Giants' decision not to bring me back for the playoffs after I served my punishment. Instead, I continued to work hard so I could be ready for the 2013 season. I hoped and expected that I would be allowed to put my mistake behind me and to start this season fresh.

Cabrera has a .284 career batting average with 69 homers and 417 runs batted in over 984 major-league games with the Giants, New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves and Kansas City Royals.



WOLFSBURG (AFP) - : Bayern's Arjen Robben of the Netherlands (2nd,R) scores past Wolfsburg keeper Diego Benaglio (R) during the German first division Bundesliga football match VfL Wolfsburg vs FC Bayern Munich in Wolfsburg, northern Germany, yesterday. Bayern Munich went 18 points clear at the top of the Bundesliga with a 2-0 victory

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NBA: Payton, Richmond among Hall of Fame nominees, Brazil legend Schmidt elected to HOF



Brazilian Basketball Legend -Oscar Schmidt

HOUSTON (AFP) - Nine-time NBA All-Star Gary Payton and six-time NBA All-Star Mitch Richmond were among 12 finalist nominees named on Friday for induction this year into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Payton and Richmond were among six first-time finalists to join the honor shrine at ceremonies on September 8. Finalists need 18 of 24 votes from the honors committee to be among the inductees announced on April 8.

Other first-time finalists include five-time NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway, two-time NBA champion coach Tom

Heinsohn, five-time Women's NBA All-Star Dawn Staley and three-time US women's coach of the year Sylvia Hatchell.

Other finalists are four-time NBA All-Stars Maurice Cheeks, Bernard King and Spencer Haywood and US college coaching legends Jerry Tarkanian, Guy Lewis and Rick Pitino.

"It will be a difficult decision for the honors committee to select the final class members from this prestigious group of individuals, each of whom has given so much to the game," said Hall of Fame chairman of the board Jerry

Colangelo.

Payton, known as "The Glove" for his defensive skills, was the 1996 NBA Defensive Player of the Year and played on US Olympic gold medal teams in 1996 and 2000. He won an NBA title with Miami in 2006. He retired fourth on the NBA all-time steals list with 2,445 and eighth in assists with 8,966.

Richmond, the 1989 NBA Rookie of the Year and 1995 All-Star Game Most Valuable Player, scored 20,497 points over 14 NBA seasons, winning a title with the Los Angeles Lakers in 2002 and an Olympic gold medal in 1996.

Brazilian legend Oscar Schmidt, a three-time Olympic scoring champion and 1980s Italian league star, was also among five people announced as inductees to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Schmidt, Russ Granik, Roger Brown, Richard Guerin and Edwin Henderson will be among those inducted in September at the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. Other inductees will be announced on April 8.

Tennis: Tearful Serena becomes oldest world number one



DOHA (AFP) - Serena Williams was in tears on Friday after snatching an historic victory at the Qatar Open which ensured that she would become the oldest woman to hold the WTA Tour's world number one ranking.

The 31-year-old American's 3-6, 6-3, 7-5 victory over Petra Kvitova in the quarter-finals put her back on top of the world after an interval of two and a half years during which she sometimes thought she might never play again.

Williams had been 1-4 down in the final set of an outstanding match against the Czech, and her relieved smile, heavenward gesture and tears in her moment of triumph gave lie to her earlier statement that

the number one position no longer mattered.

The victory, which was due to her very special competitive spirit and instinct for finding a way when no clear direction is evident, earns her the top spot at an age six months older than her fellow American Chris Evert did at 30 years and 11 months.

That was more than 27 years ago, underlining Williams' status as one of the all-time greats, and possibly the finest woman player there has ever been.

That's a total only bettered by Steffi Graf (377), Martina Navratilova (332), Evert (260), Martina Hingis (209) and Monica Seles (178).

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